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Switalski Press Release

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SWITALSKI PROPOSES SIMPLIFIED TAX FORM

Senate holds hearings on Post-Card sized form

(Lansing)- With tax day just around the corner, many Michigan taxpayers are struggling with complicated tax forms in order to file before the April 15 deadline. Filing income taxes may become easier as a result of a bill introduced by State Senator Michael Switalski (D-Roseville).

The bill, Senate Bill 76, would create a post-card sized 1040 form for individuals who file income tax returns. The post-card sized 1040 form would be voluntary.

“Senate Bill 76 provides for the option to the taxpayer to either fill out an easy to use, six-line form the size of a postcard or staying up all night and pulling their hair out trying to fill out existing forms,” said Switalski. “You do the math. What would you rather do? I would rather keep tax forms as simple as possible.”

The 1040 post-card form would include a space for the filing status, adjusted gross income, the number and amount of exemptions, the taxable income, the tax owed, the tax withheld, the amount of refund and the amount of tax due.

“Tax time is not anyone’s favorite time of the year,” said Switalski. “However, the state can do things that would make it easy for taxpayers to file. This bill, combined with the Treasury Department’s focus on e-filing your income taxes, would make it much easier for Michigan residents to file their taxes and ensure their compliance with tax law. Not everyone is going to e-file so providing them with another option will be helpful.”

The Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on the bill March 24. The State Department of Treasury raised concerns that the form might prove too popular and impede Treasury’s efforts to get more people to file electronically.

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